



N E W S R E L E A S E

MARK RIDLEY-THOMAS

CA Senate District 26

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Contact: Fahizah Alim
(916) 651-4026

Statement on the Death of Marnesba Tackett

Senator Mark Ridley-Thomas issued this statement regarding the death of Marnesba Tackett.

“Marnesba Tackett was a remarkable woman. She was my predecessor as executive director of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC).

“Her principal concern was education. When I was teaching high school in 1977, I met her at a student assembly that I had organized during a Martin Luther King Jr. celebration.

“She recruited me to the board of the SCLC and four years later I became the executive director. Marnesba Tackett made her mark in history as an unwavering advocate for civil rights and equality, particularly in the area of education.

“She was a member of 2nd Baptist Church in Los Angeles where she influenced Rev. Thomas Gilgore, who was Dr. King’s mentor and advisor. She was at Selma. She was at Bloody Sunday. She exhibited uncommon courage and a commitment that is worthy of celebration.”

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